

## Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 141653Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9376

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12204

EXDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: 97 EXBD: UNESCO AND ISRAEL: UNPROMISING OUT-  
LOOK FOR CONCILIATORY RESOLUTIONS

1. AS OF MAY 13, WITH ONLY NINE DAYS REMAINING IN THE  
CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION, OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS  
THAT NO RPT NO SPECIFIC CONCILIATORY RESOLUTION CAN BE  
SUCCESSFULLY UNDERTAKEN RE UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFER-  
ENCE DECISIONS ON JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS OR ISRAELI ENTRY  
INTO UNESCO'S EUROPEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY GROUP.

2. INDEED, OUR CONTINUING SOUNDINGS AND EFFORTS FOCUSED  
ON WEO'S AND MODERATE L.A.'S TO HAVE A RESOLUTION RE-  
ITERATING UNESCO IDEALS AND DG M'BOW'S OWN STATEMENTS ON  
THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE, WHICH COULD THEREFORE BE TAKEN AS  
AN IMPLICIT AND MILDLY CONCILIATORY MOVE, HAVE ELICITED  
SCANT ENTHUSIASM. THEREFORE, THERE HAS BEEN NO WILLING-  
NESS BY ANY OF THESE BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE THE NECESSARY  
INITIATIVE. OPEN UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE U.S. TO INTRO-  
DUCE EVEN A MILD RESOLUTION OF THIS NATURE WOULD ALMOST  
CERTAINLY FAIL TO GAIN BOARD APPROVAL AND, INDEED, MIGHT  
EVEN ELICIT PUBLIC CRITICISM FROM ARAB OR OTHER BOARD  
MEMBERS THAT WOULD REINFORCE THE ANTI-ISRAELI"  
IMAGE OF UNESCO.

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3. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH BOARD MEMBERS FROM BELGIUM, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NORWAY AND UK, WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED A WIDELY SHARED VIEW THAT ANY INITIATIVE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS RELATING TO THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE ARAB-ISRAELI CONTROVERSIES, MUCH LESS ANYTHING DIRECT TOUCHING THE OFFENDING RESOLUTIONS, RISKS SPARKING AN ACrimonious DEBATE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ONLY NORWAY ABSTAINED AND AUSTRIA DID NOT VOTE WHEN EXBD ON MAY 9 PASSED RESOLUTIONS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4.1.1 AUTHORIZING INVITATIONS TO MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE FOR A DIPLOMA-EQUIVALENCY CONVENTION AMONG MEDITERRANEAN EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES. NONE RPT NONE EVEN MADE STATEMENTS SUPPORTIVE OF US EXPLANATION OF ITS "NO" VOTE ON THIS ITEM. JAPANESE BOARD MEMBER WHEN ASKED PRIVATELY FOR HIS REACTION TO US STATEMENT, WRYLY REPLIED: "I ADMIRE AMERICAN COURAGE."

4. MOST RECENTLY THE OTHERWISE ACTIVIST BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO HAS SEEMED TO BACKTRACKED SHARPLY FROM INITIALLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO INTRODUCE A GENERAL PRINCIPLES TYPE OF RESOLUTION. FRG AND UK BOARD MEMBERS HAVE COUNSELLED AGAINST EFFORT OF THIS KIND.

5. DESPITE FOREGOING FINDINGS, WE HAVE TAKEN OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY DG'S MAY 13 PRESENTATION OF HIS REPORT TO EXPLORE WITH BOARD CHAIRMAN WYNTER AND WITH BRAZILIAN BOARD MEMBER (CARNEIRO), A PROMINENT BOARD PERSONALITY, TO

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THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SUCCESSFULLY A RESOLUTION DRAWING ON AND ENDORSING DG M'BOW REMARKS WHICH INTER ALIA AGAIN CALLED MEMBER STATES TO MAKE A "PATIENT EFFORT FOR TOLERANCE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING", AS WELL AS TO SHOW A "WILLINGNESS FOR DIALOGUE AND CONCERTED ACTION" WITH REGARD TO OVERCOMING "TENSION" AND "DIVISION" RESULTING FROM THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO WYNTER THAT PASSAGE OF SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENT WOULD HELP PAVE WAY FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT DURING SUMMER ON THESE PROBLEMS AND LESSEN THE NEED FOR US TO BUILD FURTHER ON RECORD MADE IN EXBD MEMBER MAY 9 STATEMENT.

6. COMMENT

VERY UNPROMISING OUTLOOK AT THIS BOARD SESSION POINTS UP CENTRAL FACT THAT PROBLEM OF OBTAINING "CONCRETE" CORRECTIVE STEPS ON 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS AT THIS BOARD LAYS WITH THE MEMBER STATES OF UNESCO, PARTICULARLY EUROPEANS. UNTIL THEY ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT, BOTH IN INTRODUCING AND LOBBYING, WHICH IS INDISPENSIBLE TO SUCCESS OF SUCH ACTION, WE CANNOT EXPECT INITIATIVE FROM OTHER BOARD MEMBERS WHO WELL AWARE THAT EUROPEAN AMBIVALENCE ABOUT ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUP WAS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ONE OF 18TH GC ACTIONS WE NOW STRIVING TO CORRECT.

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